for berthing bigger ships.

(ii) Modernisation of equipment for speedy handling of cargo.

(iii) Augmentation of capacity by construction of a new oil jetty.

[*Translation*]

Opening of New Branches of Nationalised Banks in Cuttack District

254. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks in the rural areas of Cuttack district of Orissa;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some new branches in the rural areas of this district;

(c) if so, the names of the places where these branches are proposed to be opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There are 165 branches of Public Sector Banks in the rural areas of Cuttack District of Orissa.

(b) to (d). Under the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for opening of branches in rural areas, the list of identified centres with necessary particulars in each District has to be given to the lead bank of that District. The Lead Bank after consolidating the list received from all banks submits it to the District Collector for recommendations and onward transmission to RBI through the concerned State Government. Under the Branch Licensing Policy (1990-95), opening of branches of Public Sector Banks is a continuous process and hence it is not possible to project the number of branches that will be opened in the rural areas of Cuttack District.

Development of National Highways in Gujarat

*255. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for the development of National Highways submitted by the Gujarat Government to the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) the details of proposals out of them approved by the Union Government and the amount sanctioned therefor;

(c) the reasons for not clearing the remaining proposals;

(d) whether the construction work of any of sanctioned projects is being delayed; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Against the cumulative Annual Programme of Rs. 219.11 crores for National Highways in Gujarat relating to the 3 year period from 1.4.88 to 31.3.91, 164 proposals costing Rs. 127.34 crores were approved by the Ministry keeping in view the availability of funds and overall priorities.

(c) Out of the 12 pending proposals as on 1.4.91, 5 proposals have been taken up for approval during 1991-92. Remaining proposals are under correspondence with the State PWD for clarifications.

(d) and (e). As per available information, the sanctioned National Highway projects are generally progressing satisfactorily. However, the construction of Ahmedabad-Vadodara National Expressway sanctioned in 1986-87 has got relatively delayed due to contractual problems which have been resolved substantially since.

Reservation in Promotion to SCs/STs Employees in Syndicate Bank.

256. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Syndicate Bank to provide reservation in promotion to the employees belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in all categories from 1978 onwards;

(b) if so, whether the Syndicate Bank has implemented it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its Judgement dated 10.8.1990 in W.P. No. 847/87 read with its order dated 1.4.91 in Review Petition Nos 592 and 608 of 1990, has directed Syndicate Bank inter-alia to provide reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes w.e.f. 1.1.1978 in promotions within its officers' cadre.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Irregularities in Rural Banks in U.P.

257. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been detected in some branches of rural banks in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry committee has been constituted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has reported that no serious irregularities have been detected in the Regional Rural Banks functioning in the State of Uttar Pradesh. However, the Regional Rural Banks in general suffer from financial weaknesses due to their financing being confined largely to the target group, the non-recovery of dues etc. The complaints regarding functioning of any individual RRB as and when received are examined and the concerned authorities are advised for taking suitable remedial measures.

[*English*]

Privatisation of Financial Institutions

258. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for privatisation of financial institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Government is not currently considering any proposal for privatisation of financial institutions.

(b) Does not arise.